

ASTHMA in Missouri

Who Is Affected and How Many?

In 2001, approximately 1 in 8 (12%) Missouri adults (18 years or older) reported ever having been told by a health care professional that they have asthma. Of these, 69% currently have asthma.

Among Missourians who ever reported having asthma (lifetime asthma):

- Females have a higher prevalence of asthma (12.5%) than males (11.3%);
- African Americans experienced a higher prevalence (19.4%) than Whites (11.5%);
- Asthma prevalence is highest amongst those 18-29 years of age (15.2%) and lowest for 60+ (7.5%);
- Prevalence is highest among those with only a high school education (19.4%) and those who live in households at or below the poverty level.

An estimated 6.7% of Missouri adults live in households with at least one child who has asthma.

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2001

Nationally, asthma among children is the leading cause of school absenteeism due to chronic disease.¹

Inpatient Hospitalizations (Rates/10,000 persons)

In 2000, 6,900 (12.4/10,000) Missourians were hospitalized due to asthma or asthma-related complications.

- Females (14.1/10,000) had a statistically significant higher rate of asthma-related hospitalization than males (10.3/10,000);
- Asthma-related hospitalization rates were highest among those under 15 years of age (24.7/10,000) and lowest among those aged 15-24 (6.9/10,000).

Emergency Room Visits (Rates/1,000 persons)

In 2000, of the 30,077 (5.4/1,000) asthma-related visits to hospital emergency rooms in Missouri:

- Females (~16,000 or 5.8/1,000) had a statistically significant higher rate of asthma-related emergency room visits than males (~14,000 or 5.1/1,000);
- Asthma-related emergency room visits were highest among those aged 15 and under (~13,000 or 11.1/1,000);

Nationally, over 1.8 million emergency department visits in 1995 were for asthma-related conditions.²

Mortality (Rates/100,000 persons)

In 2000, there were 84 (rate of 1.4/100,000) asthma-related deaths in Missouri.

- Missourians 65 and older experienced the highest asthma-related death rate.
- Rates of asthma-related deaths were higher for African Americans (5.2/100,00) compared to Whites (1.1/100,000).

Source for inpatient hospitalization, emergency room visits, and mortality: Missouri Information for Community Assessment (MICA), 2000

Cost Burden of Asthma for Missouri, 2000

- Total hospitalization cost due to asthma as a primary diagnosis was approximately \$47 million and due to asthma as any diagnosis was approximately \$407 million.

Source: MICA, 2000

1. Taylor WR, Newachek PW. Impact of childhood asthma on health. *Pediatrics* 1992;90:657-662.
2. Mannino DM, Homa DM, Pertowski CA, et al. Surveillance for asthma-United States, 1960-1995. *Mortality and Morbidity Weekly Report* 1998;477(No.SS-1):1-27.

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